



Neenah Joint School District
 Dr. Mary Pfeiffer, District Administrator
 Mr. Andrew Thorson, Asst. District Administrator of Business Services
 Betsy Ellenberger, Representing Board of Education

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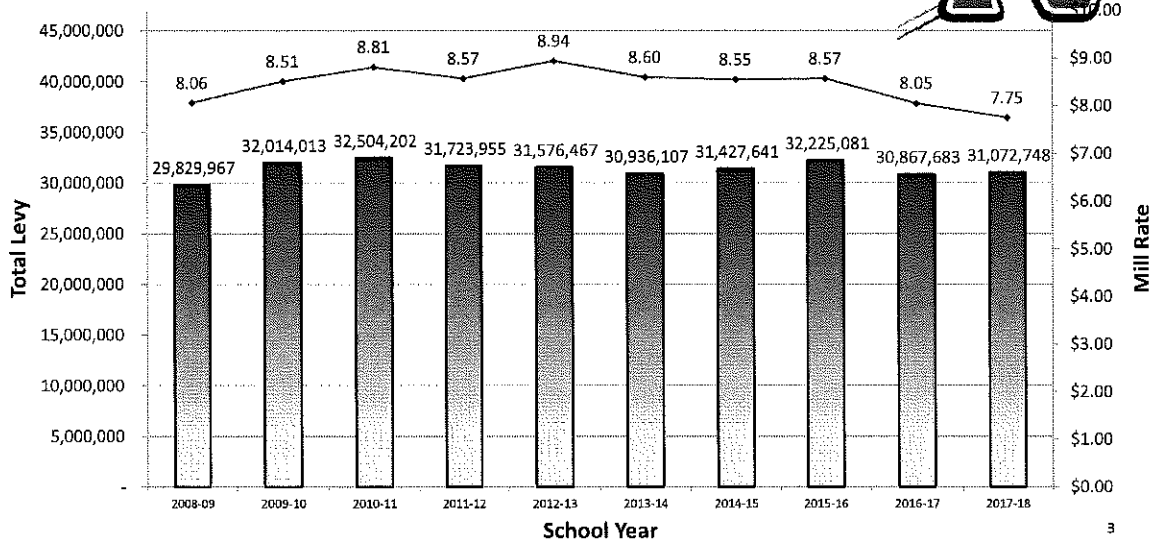
Neenah Joint School District (NJSD)



- Enrollment of 6,694 students
 - 1 high school of 2,016 students
 - 1 grade 7-8 middle school of 972 students
 - 1 grade 6 middle school of 508 students
 - 9 5K-5 elementary schools ranging from 123 to 416 students
 - 1 early learning center (4K and pre-school) of 214 students
- About 25% on free or reduced price lunch
- About 13% of our students need special education service
- Mill rate of \$7.75 / \$1,000 for 2018
- Levy amount of \$31,072,748 for 2018
- Low spending district (About \$9,600 per pupil)

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History of Tax Levy and Mill Rate



College and Career Focus



- Prioritize community service
 - Instilling service above self
- Local business partnerships
 - Bemis, Plexus, Miron, Jeweler's Mutual, Kimberly-Clark, Verve Credit Union & Bergstrom to name a few
 - INCubatoredu
 - HOPE – Addressing mental health K-12 with Samaritan, Catalpa, NAMI, PATH
- Post-secondary college and tech college credits
 - 50+ college & tech college course offerings
 - 21 AP courses, 16 CAPP/St. Norbert College courses, 13 transcribed FVTC courses (+3 advanced standing), 5 PLTW (MSOE) courses

Neenah With Pride!



- No long-term debt since 2012
- One of the lowest mill rates in the area
- Continued commitment to fund post employment benefits (OPEB)
- Continued commitment to pay for performance
- Enrollment continues to rise
- Small elementary class size: 4K-5 average is 21.4 students per teacher
- Commitment to wellness
 - Second year operating the health and wellness center
 - Second year of 11 schools receiving the Wisconsin School Health Award (68 total winners in the state)
- High staff retention rate (4.29% voluntary turnover rate)
- High starting teacher salary of \$42,000 (recommending \$42,500/year for 2018-19)

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Funding Strategies - Celebrations



- Strategic Spending – Low Mill Rate
 - Tax to the max
 - Spend all of the budget
 - OPEB liability
 - Facility upgrades
 - Staff compensation
 - Fund 80 (community service) Levy
 - Fund 41 (capital expansion) Levy
 - Fund 46 (capital improvement trust) contributions
- Community Development
 - TID projects; 3 in Fox Crossing and 11 in Neenah
- No long term debt since 2012
 - Last referendum was 2006 for \$6,000,000 over three years

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Funding Strategies - NJSD



- Adding 4K
 - In first year, received taxing authority, but aid is delayed up to three years (1/3, 1/3, 1/3)
 - We got creative
 - Spend more the year before
 - Reduce Fund 80 levy
 - Went from potential mill rate increase of \$1.50 to actual increase of \$0.02
- Vouchers
 - In first year of vouchers, revenue limit exemption exceeded aid transfer amount (full cost of vouchers paid for by local taxpayers)
 - NJSD one of a handful of districts to only levy for aid transfer amount (under-levied by \$89,176)

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Challenges for you to consider...



- Health Care
 - Taking up more and more of our budgets every year
 - The State has an opportunity to become self-funded and could be an option for school districts to collaborate
 - We (school districts and state employees) are doing great things to help our employees be well – let's collaborate and share ideas to make it even better
- Special Education
 - Increase categorical aid reimbursement on special education costs from 27% to 50% (about \$2,000,000 for Neenah)
- Create a fund (like Fund 46) for professional development or other areas where districts can maximize the funding formula without penalty
- Local control – Expand the use of Fund 80 for mental health programs

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Appreciations



- Thank you for your time and your listening in this process
 - Good legislative changes
 - Helping teachers get their masters degree
 - Sparsity Aid and Low Revenue Ceiling Increase
 - Thanks to CESA 6 and the Legislative Breakfast Forum
- Thankful to live in Wisconsin!
 - Live, work and raise a family
- Thankful to have this discussion – recognizing that education is a priority for our state

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Questions



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